

## Message Text

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11  
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 INR-05

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R 141218Z APR 76  
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1519  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC  
CINCLANT  
CJCS WASHDC  
USCINCEUR  
USMISSION NATO  
USDOCO AFNORTH  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

S E C R E T OSLO 1878

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, MPOL, NO, NATO  
SUBJ: MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE (MAF) AIR BASING REQUIREMENTS IN NORWAY

REF: (A) STATE 85870, (B) OSLO 1268 (NOTAL), (C) USCINCEUR 220941Z MAR 76, (D) USCINCEUR 061747Z JAN 76

1. EMBASSY MOST INTERESTED TO READ CINCEUR'S COMMENT ON OUR TELEGRAM ALERTING WASHINGTON TO PROBLEMS WE PERCEIVE IN HANDLING MARINE AIR BASING REQUIREMENTS IN NORWAY ON BILATERAL BASIS. THE PROPOSAL TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS BILATERALLY UNDER THE AEGIS OF AFNORTH/SACEUR CULMINATING IN COUNTRY TO COUNTRY AGREEMENT DOES NOT RPT NOT SATISFY CONCERNS WE OUTLINED IN OSLO 1268.

2. WE OF COURSE AGREE WITH THE NEED TO SATISFY MAF AIRBASING REQUIREMENTS HERE. THE ISSUE IS NOW IT IS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED.

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WE BELIEVE THAT THE SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL RISKS OUTLINED IN

PARA 3 OF OSLO 1268 ARGUE STRONGLY, IF NOT CONCLUSIVELY, IN  
FAVOR OF SATISFYING SUCH REQUIREMENTS THROUGH NATO CHANNELS IN  
A LOW-KEY, QUIET FASHION.

3. TWO ADDITIONAL FACTORS INCREASE THE DELICACY OF THE ISSUE:

(A) THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF AN ELECTION YEAR AND  
POLITICAL ACTIVISTS, AS WELL AS POLITICIANS OF ALL  
POLITICAL COLORATIONS, WILL BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR  
ISSUES SUCH AS THIS ONE WHICH COULD BE EXPLOITED  
TO THE DETRIMENT OF OVER-ALL U.S. INTERESTS.

(B) THE HIGH-LEVEL DEFENSE REVIEW COMMISSION IS  
IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO  
NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT, RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WILL  
ESTABLISH THE MAIN LINES OF NORWEGIAN SECURITY  
POLICY THROUGH THE 1980S. ANY SERIOUS POLITICAL  
DEBATE, PUBLIC OR INTERNAL, COULD HAVE A  
DELETERIOUS AFFECT ON THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE  
DEFENSE REVIEW COMMISSION WITH A RESULTANT  
ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE OVER-ALL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN  
THE U.S. AND NORWAY IN THE VITAL SECURITY FIELD.

4. U.S.- NORWEGIAN COLLOCATED OPERATING BASE (COB) AGREEMENT  
WAS NOT CONDUCTED UNDER AEGIS OF AFNORTH AS STATED IN REF C,  
THOUGH U.S. AFNORTH AIR DEPUTY WAS PRESENT AT NEGOTIATIONS AS  
NON-PARTICIPATING OBSERVER. FURTHERMORE, NO ESTABLISHED  
PROCEDURE EXISTS HERE FOR FOLLOW-ON NEGOTIATIONS OF MAF AIR-  
BASING REQUIREMENTS AS A RESULT OF OUR COB AGREEMENT. A  
USAFE/EMBASSY DRAFT WAS AGREED UPON, AN AD HOC NEGOTIATING  
SESSION ARRANGED FOR THE USAFE/EMBASSY TEM AND, ON THE  
BASIS OF THAT DRAFT, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED IN A SINGLE ONE AND  
ONE-HALF HOUR SESSION. THIS HARDLY CONSTITUTES AN ESTABLISHED  
PROCEDURE OR PRECEDENT.

5. WHEN SPEAKING OF SACLANT ASSETS AND NATO FORCES  
OPERATING UNDER ALLIANCE CONTINGENCY PLANS, WE FAIL TO SEE WHY  
BILATERAL APPROACH LEADING TO U.S./NORWEGIAN AGREEMENT OR MOU  
IS REQUIRED, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF OUR VIEWS ON POLITICAL  
SENSITIVITY OF ISSUE. THE ALLIANCE MUST BE CAPABLE OF PLANNING

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AND IMPLEMENTING REINFORCEMENT OF THE NORTHERN FLANK WITHOUT  
ADDITIONAL BILATERAL AGREEMENTS FOR THE RECEPTION OF ALLIED  
FORCES. COULD NOT THE MARINE AIRBASING REQUIREMENTS BE FULLY  
ACCOMMODATED IN THE NORMAL NATO CONTINGENCY PLANNING CYCLE?  
WE OBSERVE THAT USMC HAS MAINTAINED IN PAST ON GROUNDS OF  
OPERATIONAL DOCTRINE THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE PRE-STOCKAGE  
REQUIREMENTS.

6. ON THE QUESTION OF HOW TO FUND IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES  
IF REQUIRED AND THE ARGUMENT THAT THIS KIND OF PROBLEM IS  
PRECISELY WHAT THE NATO INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO  
COPE WITH.

7. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO INFORMAL, PRELIMINARY, MILITARY-  
TO-MILITARY DISCUSSIONS ON THIS ISSUE WITH NORWEGIANS,  
ALTHOUGH WE SUSPECT NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT WILL SHARE OUR  
CONCERNS EXPRESSED PARA 3 ON BILATERAL APPROACH. WE DO  
OBJECT TO THESE DISCUSSIONS RAISING ISSUE OF BILATERAL  
AGREEMENT UNTIL FINAL DECISION BY USG HAS BEEN REACHED.  
BREMER

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## Message Attributes

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